

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of knitting a jacquard pattern, weft knitted spacer fabric on a double jersey circular knitting machine having a rotatable needle cylinder and a rotatable needle dial, the method comprising:

knitting the jacquard pattern, weft knitted spacer fabric on the double jersey circular knitting machine by operating the double jersey circular knitting machine in an interlock gating mode so that cylinder needles carried by the needle cylinder and dial needles carried by the needle dial reciprocate between welt, tuck and knit positions respectively in substantially common planes, with the knitting including:

weft knitting a jacquard pattern layer of the weft knitted spacer fabric on the needle cylinder,

weft knitting a second layer of the weft knitted spacer fabric on the needle dial, and

coupling the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer to one another with spacer yarn, with the coupling including:

repeatedly connecting the spacer yarn in the jacquard pattern layer by hooking the spacer yarn about necks of stitches of the jacquard pattern layer, wherein hooking the spacer yarn about necks of stitches of the jacquard pattern layer includes moving alternate needles of the cylinder needles to the tuck position, so that for each needle of the alternate needles of the cylinder needles moved to the tuck position, the needle captures the spacer yarn, and

repeatedly connecting the spacer yarn in the second layer by hooking the spacer yarn about necks of stitches of the second layer, wherein hooking the spacer yarn about necks of stitches of the second layer includes moving alternate needles of the dial needles to the tuck position, so that for each needle of the alternate needles of the dial needles moved to the tuck position, the needle captures the spacer yarn.

2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising adjusting one or more of the needle dial and the needle cylinder to transition the double jersey circular knitting machine from a rib gating mode to the interlock gating mode, prior to knitting the jacquard pattern, weft knitted spacer fabric on the double jersey circular knitting machine.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein weft knitting the second layer of the weft knitted spacer fabric is carried out so that the second layer of the weft knitted spacer fabric is a plain layer of the weft knitted spacer fabric.

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4. A method according to claim 1, further comprising selecting the spacer yarn and yarns of the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer so that the spacer yarn is firmer and more resilient than the yarns of the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer.

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5. A jacquard pattern, weft knitted spacer fabric, comprising:
a spacer yarn repeatedly connected to each of a weft knitted jacquard pattern layer of the spacer fabric and a weft knitted second layer of the spacer fabric, so that the jacquard pattern layer and the weft knitted layer are connected to one another,
15 wherein:

courses of the second layer are respectively substantially aligned with courses of the jacquard pattern layer,

a first side of the second layer and a first side of the jacquard pattern layer face toward one another,

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the spacer yarn is for seeking to resiliently keep the first side of the jacquard pattern layer and the first side of the second layer spaced apart from one another by a predetermined distance,

the spacer yarn repeatedly extends back and forth between the first side of the jacquard pattern layer and the first side of the second layer,

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for each of a multiplicity of points at which the spacer yarn is connected in the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer:

the spacer yarn extends directly from said point to two adjacent points at which the spacer yarn is connected to the other of the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer, and

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said point is substantially centralized between said two adjacent points.

6. A fabric according to claim 5, wherein the spacer yarn is firmer and more resilient than yarns of the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer.

7. A fabric according to claim 5, wherein the spacer yarn is connected in the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer by being respectively hooked about necks of stitches of the jacquard pattern layer and the second layer.

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8. A fabric according to claim 5, wherein the second layer is a plain layer.